

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 03732 111637Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 PM-05 DODE-00 INR-07 INRE-00
L-03 /030 W

-----098548 111645Z /42

O R 111521Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5139
INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 3732

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI, PGOV, OAS, ES
SUBJECT: GOES RESPONSE ON REQUEST FOR SOUTHCOM INSPECTOR
VISIT TO BORDER AREAS

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 3353 (NOTAL), (B) SAN SALVADOR 3211 (NOTAL)
(C) STATE 177165

1. ON AUGUST 9, GOES NOTE WAS DELIVERED TO EMBASSY RESPONDING TO
ITS NOTE REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR SOUTHCOM INSPECTOR TO VISIT
BORDER AREA REPORTED REF B. UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF
OPERATIVE TEXT OF RESPONSE FOLLOWS:

"THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS PRESENTS ITS GREETINGS
TO THE HONORABLE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND,
WITH REFERENCE TO ITS NOTE NO. 273 DATED JULY 29, WISHES TO
POINT OUT THAT, ON JUNE 4, 1970 A 'PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A SECURITY ZONE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PACIFICATION', THE
PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO PREVENT INCIDENTS ON THE
FRONTIER BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS, WAS APPROVED IN
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 03732 111637Z

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA. THIS PLAN, ELABORATED UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE OAS AND THE GUARANTEE OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF EL SALVADOR
AND HONDURAS, WOULD BE CARRIED OUT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MILITARY
OBSERVERS OF THE OAS. LATER, NSN AUGUST 9, 1976, IN THE PROTO-
COL ANNEXED TO THE 'ACT OF MANAGUA' OF THE SAME DATE, THE
MISSION OF MILITARY OBSERVERS OF THE OAS WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE
AREA OF THE INCIDENTS WHICH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOUTHERN

COMMAND DESIRES TO VISIT, AS MENTIONED IN YOUR NOTE CITED ABOVE.

"IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT NEITHER THE 'PLAN OF SAN JOSE' NOR THE 'ACT OF MANAGUA' CONTEMPLATES THE PRESENCE IN THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ZONES OF ELEMENTS OTHER THAN ESTABLISHED LOCAL FUNCTIONARIES AND AUTHORITIES AND THE OAS MILITARY OBSERVERS, THIS MINISTRY FEARS THAT, IF IT APPROVES THE PERMISSION REQUESTED, IT MAY BE CONTRAVENING THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED AGREEMENTS. ACCORDINGLY, THE HONORABLE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO EXCUSE THE FACT THAT AN IMMEDIATE AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE CANNOT BE GIVEN TO ITS REQUEST BECAUSE OF THE TIME WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO MAKE THE NECESSARY CONSULTATIONS."

2. FOLLOWING DAY, EMBOFF RAISED NOTE WITH AMERICAN AFFAIRS OFFICER, JIMENEZ ORTIZ, REQUESTING ESTIMATE OF TIME WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MAKE "NECESSARY CONSULTATIONS" AND POINTING OUT THAT VISIT HAD BEEN APPROVED BY GOH. JIMENEZ ORTIZ THEN MISTAKENLY REPORTED TO HIS SUPERIORS THAT EMBASSY IN ITS CONCERN OVER MEETING DEADLINE OF INSPECTION HAD REQUESTED THAT GOES NOTE BE WITHDRAWN AND AND RECONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO GOES POSITION. DIRECTOR OF BOUNDARIES IN FOREIGN MINISTRY (CASTRILLO) CALLED ME ON BEHALF FOREIGN MINISTER TO INFORM ME OF THIS AND SAID THAT INSTRUCTIONS HAD ALREADY GONE OUT TO AMBASSADOR BERTRAND-GALINDO IN WASHINGTON TO TAKE UP MATTER WITH DEPARTMENT OF STATE. I EXPLAINED TO CASTRILLO THAT WE HAD NOT REQUESTED THE NOTE BE WITHDRAWN AND ASKED HIM TO SO ADVISE AMBASSADOR BERTRAND-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SAN SA 03732 111637Z

GALINDO. I EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD MERELY SOUGHT TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION AND EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURES INVOLVED AND SOME IDEA OF THE AMOUNT OF TIME THE MINISTRY WOULD REQUIRE TO REVIEW THE REQUEST SO THAT WE COULD ADVISE DEPARTMENT AND SOUTHCOM. CASTRILLO EXPLAINED THE QTE SENSITIVITY TO THE GOES OF THE PROJECT WHICH WOULD BE CARRIED OUT OVER TERRITORY EL SALVADOR CLAIMS, WHICH CONTAINS SALVADORANS AS RESIDENTS AND WHICH HONDURAS ILLEGALLY OCCUPIES UNQTE. HE MENTIONED THAT PROCEDURES THEY THINK NECESSARY WOULD INCLUDE BRINGING UP BEFORE "GRUPO DE WASHINGTON" OR "COMMITTEE OF SEVEN", WITH OAS SYG, AND BILATERALLY WITH GUARANTOR STATES. CASTRILLO REQUESTED MORE INFORMATION ON THE PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTION VISIT WHICH HE FOUND CURIOUS AFTER AN ENTIRE YEAR'S OPERATION OF THE HELICOPTER SERVICE. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILS THAN WERE CONTAINED IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE, ADDING THAT I ASSUMED REQUEST TO VISIT BORDER AREAS WAS BASED ON MILITARY OPERATIONAL NEED TO SEE FIRST HAND AREAS IN WHICH US PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT ARE DEPLOYED. MILITARY DECISION MAKERS IN SOUTHCOM, I EXPLAINED, NEED TO MAKE JUDGMENTS ABOUT LOGISTICAL AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS INVOLVING TYPE OF EQUIPMENT, MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY, AS WELL AS SAFETY OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT IN THE TERRAIN INVOLVED. I TOLD CASTRILLO THAT INSPECTION VISIT THUS APPEARED NORMAL

AND REASONABLE TO ME.

3. CASTRILLO EMPHASIZED THAT THE OBSERVATION OPERATION WAS AN OAS AFFAIR AND ANY REQUIREMENT THERE SHOULD BE CLEARED THROUGH OAS CHANNELS. I WOULD AGREE WITH HIM AND AGAIN RECOMMEND (REF B) THAT DEPARTMENT SEEK PERMISSION FOR INSPECTION VISIT THROUGH OAS CHANNELS. IN ANY EVENT DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTED. MEHVNWHILE CASTRILLO SAID GOES WOULD HOLD OFF ON ITS ANTICIPATED APPROACH TO OAS, TO THE GUARANTORS AND TO OAS SEC GEN, BUT BERTRAND-GALINDO MAY STILL APPROACH DEPARTMENT. IT SEEMS TO ME GOES SHOULD BE MADE TO REALIZE THAT AGAIN IT WILL APPEAR THAT EL SALVADOR IS THE UNCOOPERATIVE ONE DRAGGING ITS FEET, THIS TIME ON AN OPERATIONAL MATTER WITH LITTLE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE.
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PAGE 04 SAN SA 03732 111637Z

4. FOR USCINCSO: MORE WORDS TO JUSTIFY TRIP WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 11-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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To: STATE
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